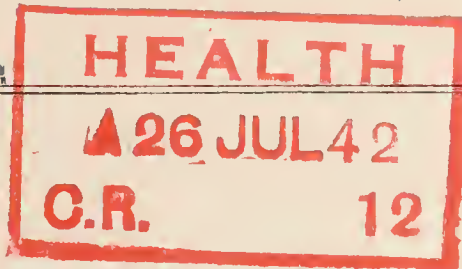


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Rural District of Meriden.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1940,

BY

H. GIBBONS WARD, M.D., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE

Warwickshire Combined Districts.

Leamington Spa :

A. TOMES, LTD., PRINTERS, 46, BEDFORD STREET.

1941.

1, MILVERTON HILL,
LEAMINGTON SPA,
December, 1941.

To the Meriden Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

Herewith the Report for 1940 ; it is regretted that it has been delayed for various causes.

Again, as instructed by the Ministry of Health, the Report is a short statement of fact with no comment. All the available information is, however, being kept for record and, if required, can be produced.

With many thanks for much kindness on the part of the Council and my colleagues,

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. GIBBONS WARD,

Medical Officer of Health.

Meriden Rural District.

A. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Population (estimated) Mid-year, 1940	{ For Birth Rate	} 30,830
	{ „ Death „	

		Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births	{ Legitimate	519	254	265	} Birth Rate 17.4
	{ Illegitimate	19	72	7	

Still Births—Rate per 1,000 total births	50
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Deaths	408	231	177	Death Rate 13.2
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Adjusting Factor for Death Rate	1.13
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Adjusted Death Rate	14.9
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Deaths from Diseases and	{ From Sepsis	...	—
Accidents of Pregnancy and	„	other causes	—
Child-birth			

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	59
---------------------------------------	-----	-----	----

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 59

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live
births 53

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—
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„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
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„ „	Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	3
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B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

Public Health Staff.—A complete list was given in the Report for 1938.

Laboratory Facilities.—Bacteriological examinations by Birmingham University :—

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Diphtheria	... 27	... 62	... 89
Enteric Fever	... 3	... 6	... 9
Tuberculosis	... 3	... 17	... 20

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.—Table I. gives a summary of inspections.

1. (i) WATER.—The district is favourably situated in respect to piped supplies of water. The mains are continually being extended.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—Twelve parishes have main sewerage.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—No change.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.—See Table I.

D. HOUSING.

Full particulars of the usual Table have been compiled and are being kept for Record purposes, but with a view to economy it is not being printed.

(b) *Housing Conditions.*

1. *General Observations.*—This question was discussed fully in previous Reports, to which reference may be made.

2. *Sufficiency of the Supply of Houses.*—There are now 276 Council houses in the district. The demand which has existed for years has, of course, been accentuated.

4. *Fitness of Houses.*—No representations were made during the year.

5. *Unhealthy Areas.*—No representations were made in respect of Clearance Areas.

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply.*—The interest of the Inspectors in the maintenance of a clean milk supply has been kept up, in spite of calls on their time due to the War. Defects in premises and methods were reported monthly, and improvements numbering 72 were effected. These included 5 new cowsheds, 29 new cowshed floors and 16 new cooler places.

Clean Milk.

Two farms are licensed for tuberculin tested milk, and 116 are on the accredited roll. During the year 8 cow-keepers qualified newly for the latter.

F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Incidence of Commoner Infectious Diseases since 1932.

		Smallpox.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1933	...	—	18	35	—	63	—	2
1934	...	—	59	77	—	58	—	1
1935	...	—	56	78	—	55	—	1
1936	...	—	69	118	—	36	—	1
1937	...	—	98	46	—	57	—	4
1938	...	—	54	36	—	58	—	4
1939	...	—	41	39	—	42	—	5
1940	...	—	34	62	2	55	1	7

Reference to Table III. will give the age distribution of the cases notified during 1940.

Immunisation.—Arrangements have been made for the supply to Medical Practitioners of material for Immunisation against Diphtheria.

School Closures.

Shustoke Infants'. Chickenpox and Influenza. 6th to 19th Feb.
 Fillongley C.E. Influenza. 13th Mar. to Easter Holidays.
 Eastern Green. Measles. 10th Dec. to Xmas Holidays.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, TUBERCULOSIS.

			NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
					Non-				Non-	
					Pulmonary.				Pulmonary.	
AGE—PERIODS			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—
1	...	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—
5	...	...	1	2	...	2	1	...	—	—
15	...	...	1	5	...	2	1	3	...	1
25	...	...	5	5	...	1	2	...	—	—
35	...	...	1	4	...	—	1	...	—	—
45	...	...	1	3	...	—	2	...	—	—
55	...	...	1	—	...	—	1	...	—	—
65 and upwards	...	...	1	—	...	—	—	...	—	—
TOTALS	...	...	11	19	...	1	4	...	8	1

Treatment.—18 cases were admitted to Sanatorium during the year, 17 were discharged.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

REPORT OF ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR.

Copies of these Reports have been received and kept for reference.

TABLE I.

RURAL DISTRICT OF MERIDEN.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S
DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1940.

			Inspections and Observations made.	Notices served.		Nuisances Abated after Notices.
				Statu- tory.	In- formal.	
Dwelling Houses and Schools	...		612	5	86	111
Lodging Houses	...	...	—	—	—	—
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	88	—	—	—
Cow Sheds	...	...	859	—	72	72
Bakehouses	...	...	10	—	3	3
Slaughter Houses	...	...	317	—	—	—
Canal Boats	...	...	—	—	—	—
Ashpits and Privies	...	...	60	—	44	44
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	...	...	4	—	4	4
Water-closets	...	...	2	—	2	2
House Drainage	...	...	42	—	42	42
Water Supply	...	...	177	5	7	12
Pigsties	...	...	1	—	1	1
Animals improperly kept	...	...	—	—	—	—
Offensive Trades	...	...	—	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances	...	...	2	—	2	2
Other Nuisances	...	...	32	2	14	14
Various Inspections	...	...	448	—	—	—
New Buildings	...	...	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	...	...	2654	12	277	307

					No.
Drain Tests : Other than Water	...	...	...	...	—
Unwholesome Meat condemned	...	...	...	...	123
Samples of Food taken for Analysis (Milk)	...	...	...	...	—
Ditto of Food found adulterated	...	...	...	...	—
Ditto of Water taken for Analysis	...	...	...	...	17
Ditto of Water condemned as unfit for use	...	...	...	...	4

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of Infected Bedding Disinfected or Destroyed	...	...	3
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease	...	...	117
Schools ditto ditto ditto	...	...	—

F. T. KENYON, Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE II.
MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1940 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Nett.		Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages.	
		Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1934	26,220	422	16.0	27	64	302	11.5
1935	26,680	443	16.6	19	43	272	10.2
1936	27,090	473	17.5	20	42	280	10.4
1937	27,540	464	16.9	21	45	294	10.7
1938	27,980	519	18.6	24	46	268	9.6
1939	29,590	514	17.5	29	55	281	9.5
1940	30,830	538	17.4	32	59	408	13.2

TABLE III.—MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE
YEAR 1940.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Number of Cases notified.								Total cases removed to Hospital	Total Deaths.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.								
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.		
Small-pox										
Plague										
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Group)	34	.....	13	16	3	2	.....	.....	26	.....
Erysipelas	10	.....			1	1	6	2	.....
Scarlet Fever	62	1	10	36	9	6	.....	.....	44	.....
Typhus Fever										
Enteric Fever	2	.....			2					
Pneumonia	55	3	13	5	.....	8	17	9	.....	23
Malaria										
Dysentery										
Puerperal Pyrexia	7	.....			3	4	.....	.....
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	8	1	1	.....	1	4	1	.....		3
Poliomyelitis										1
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	.....					1	.....	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	.....						
Polio-Encephalitis										
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	30	.....		3	6	15	5	1	.....	15
Other forms of Tuberculosis	5	.....		2	3	1	.....	.....		3
Totals	215	6	37	62	28	41	30	12	79	45

TABLE IV.
MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1940.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
All Causes	231	177
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...		
2 Cerebro Spinal Fever	2	1
3 Scarlet Fever		
4 Whooping Cough		
5 Diphtheria		
6 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	12	3
7 Other Forms of Tuberculosis	1	2
8 Syphilitic Diseases	2	2
9 Influenza	8	3
10 Measles		
11 Ac. Polio-Myel and Polio-Enceph. ...	1	
12 Ac. Infant Enceph.		
13 Cancer of B. Cav. and Oesoph (M.) Uterus (F.)	3	3
14 Cancer of Stomach and Duod.	4	2
15 Cancer of Breast		1
16 Cancer, other Sites	14	17
17 Diabetes	2	6
18 Intra Cran. Vasc. Lesions... ..	19	22
19 Heart Disease	42	35
20 Other Dis. C/rc. Sys.	4	2
21 Bronchitis	22	5
22 Pneumonia	14	9
23 Other Resp. Diseases	4	3
24 Ulcer of Stomach and Duod.	3	
25 Diarrhoea (under 2 years)... ..	1	2
26 Appendicitis	1	3
27 Other Digestive Diseases	2	6
28 Nephritis	5	2
29 Puer. and Post Abort Sepsis		
30 Other Natural Causes		
31 Premature Birth	6	4
32 Con. Mal., Birth Inj., etc.... ..	12	
33 Suicide	4	1
34 Road Traffic Accidents	12	3
35 Other Violent Causes	9	11
36 All Other Causes	22	29